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LETTER DATED 9 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 8 February 1994 from the Chairman of the Parliament, Head of State of the Republic of Georgia, His Excellency Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter P. CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 February 1994 from the Chairman of the Parliament and the Head of State of Georgia addressed to the Secretary-General

The exacerbation of the tense situation in Abkhazia forces me to appeal to you.

The Abkhaz separatists have flagrantly neglected their obligations outlined in the memorandum of 1 December 1993 and the communiqué of 13 January 1994.

On 7 and 8 February 1994, the Abkhaz separatists began a barbaric operation. A unit of approximately 1,000 men equipped with heavy military machinery has invaded the Georgian villages of the Gali region, burned 800 homes and massacred the civilian population. As a result, several thousand more Georgians have joined the tens of thousands of forcibly displaced persons and refugees who have escaped to the high mountain villages of the Gali region. Even though this region is physically inaccessible to the armed separatists, they have nevertheless been able to bomb the high area with their heavy artillery.

It is ironic that Gali was designated as the first in a series of regions to be systematically demilitarized and repopulated by the legal residents. The timing of this latest outrage also happens to coincide with the proposed timetable for implementation of the process. One damning coincidence after another.

In this tragedy, one can easily discern the signature so characteristic of the Abkhaz separatists, i.e., the continuation of the ethnic cleansing and unrelenting terrorization of the population.

It is impossible to believe that the Abkhaz side is interested in the establishment of peace when evidence to the contrary is so compelling. Moreover, the facts suggest to us that the escalation of the military activities instigated by the Abkhaz separatists is aimed at foiling the intent of the Security Council resolutions, as well as the process of normalization of relationships between Russia and Georgia and against the establishment of peace in the entire Caucasus region.

We have chosen the path of peaceful settlement of this conflict. The only alternative to this is the resumption and escalation of military activities, which will broaden the conflict zone and result inevitably in further casualties and terrible misfortune that will not be restricted to Georgia alone. The only solution is the expeditious deployment of a peace-keeping force under the United Nations aegis accompanied by strict international monitoring.

Once again, I appeal to the United Nations, the Security Council and all of its member States, and to you, Mr. Secretary-General, to reach a prompt decision on the deployment of a peace-keeping force in Abkhazia and the return of the displaced persons and refugees.

I have also addressed the Russian leadership, on whose assistance in the facilitation of peace-keeping efforts the fate of the Republic of Georgia particularly depends, encouraging them to take every positive measure towards effecting a peaceful settlement of the conflict and enabling the displaced persons and refugees to return with dignity to their homes.

Let me thank you for your long-standing efforts to effect the resolution of this conflict.

(Signed) Eduard SHEVARDNADZE